

large opening that permits the pouch-like container to be attached to, and removed from, a selected portion of the first sheet or the first container.

[0013] By using the surgical drape according to the invention, the drape can be positioned on the upper surface of the operating table in a desired position prior to placing the patient thereon. Accordingly, merely by opening the first container, the first sheet can be withdrawn from the container and both it and the second sheet, if provided, can be extended as necessary to protect the table. There no longer is a need to lift the patient once the patient has been placed on the table.

[0014] The foregoing and other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from a review of the following description of the invention, together with the attached drawings.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0015] FIG. 1 is a view of a first embodiment of a surgical drape according to the invention disposed at the foot of an operating table;

[0016] FIG. 2 is a view of the surgical drape of FIG. 1, with a first sheet partially withdrawn from an opened container;

[0017] FIG. 3 is a view similar to FIG. 2 in which the first sheet has been pulled further from the container;

[0018] FIG. 4 is a perspective view of a second embodiment of the invention with a second sheet in the process of being expanded;

[0019] FIG. 5 is a view of the surgical drape of FIG. 4 atop an operating table;

[0020] FIG. 6 is a view similar to FIG. 5 in which the first sheet has been fully pulled from the container;

[0021] FIG. 7 is a view similar to FIG. 6 showing a third embodiment of the invention in which a third sheet is provided;

[0022] FIG. 8 is an enlarged view of a portion of the drape of FIG. 7 showing the third sheet partially severed from the remainder of the drape;

[0023] FIG. 9 is a view of the third sheet from the opposite side shown in FIG. 8 and illustrating adhesive applied to the third sheet;

[0024] FIG. 10 is a view of the surgical drape of FIG. 4 packaged in a second container; and

[0025] FIG. 11 is an enlarged view of a portion of FIG. 4 showing the surgical drape in the process of being opened.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0026] Referring generally to FIGS. 1-3, a first embodiment of a surgical drape according to the invention is indicated generally by the reference numeral 10. The drape 10 is illustrated as being used for perineal surgery, where the portion of the patient being operated on is positioned at the foot of an operating table 28. The drape 10 could be used for surgical procedures on any part of a patient's body, such as

the head (head of the operating table 28) and upper extremities (sides of the operating table 28), and so forth.

[0027] The drape 10 includes a first sheet 12 that is disposed in a first, elongate, flexible container 14. The container 14 has an end portion 16 that is connected to the remainder of the container 14 by a series of scores 18. The sheet 12 is folded in plicated (accordion-like) fashion to form a series of pleats 20. The pleats 20 are arranged so that the sheet 12 can be withdrawn from the container 14 after the end portion 16 has been opened.

[0028] The sheet 12 has a first end 22 and a second, opposed end 24. The second end 24 is secured to the inside of the container 14. A series of perforations 25 extend across the sheet 12 near the second end 24 (see FIGS. 6-8). The first end 22 is not connected to the container 14. A small pull tab 26 of paper or other suitable material can be attached to the first end 22 in order to permit a user to readily pull the sheet 12 from the container 14. The tab 26 can be colored differently than the sheet 12 in order for the user to more readily locate and grasp the tab 26. It is expected that the second end 24 will be secured within the container 14, preferably by adhesive or heat-sealing. One side of the container 14 is provided with an adhesive surface (not shown) that is protected by a removable, non-stick protective layer (not shown).

[0029] The sheet 12 can be of various sizes and shapes, or combinations of sizes and shapes, although a generally rectangular shape is preferred for ease of manufacture. For example, the sheet 12 can be in the form of a trapezoid in which the smaller end of the sheet 12 remains disposed within the container 14 or a combination of a smaller upper rectangular portion connected to a larger lower rectangular or trapezoidal portion. The actual dimensions of the sheet 12 will be selected to fit the dimensions of the operating table 28 and the type of surgical procedure being performed.

[0030] The sheet 12 preferably is made of commercially available polyethylene sheeting, about 0.003 inch thick, which can be sterilized. There are other materials that are suitable for the sheet 12, such as various types of vinyl. Regardless of the material from which it is made, the sheet 12 preferably is fluid-impervious. The container 14 preferably is made of a sterilizable, transparent, fluid-impervious material such as polyethylene or vinyl. It is expected that the sheet 12 will be in a sterile condition while it remains in the unopened container 14. If desired, the sheet 12 can be provided with adhesive portions, or possibly hook and loop fasteners, at selected places in order to attach the sheet 12 to the operating table after the sheet 12 has been pulled from the container 14. The pull tab 26 also can be provided with adhesive portions, if desired.

[0031] In use, the non-stick layer covering the adhesive surface on the container 14 is removed and the container 14 is placed atop the operating table 28 in a desired location. For example, if the drape 10 is to be used for perineal surgery, the container 14 will be placed at or near the foot of the table 28. The container 14 extends toward the floor approximately 24 inches on either side of the table 28. The container 14 is positioned such that the first end 22 is closest to the end of the table 28. The adhesive surfaces on the container 14 will prevent the container 14 from moving relative to the table 28.

[0032] The patient is placed atop the table 28 with the patient's buttocks or lumbar spine region on the upper